

he should watch all night. I knew he
would, for the
sake of his Arab mare!

Tjiis morning, soon after leaving Mowaz, the
Sahib's
guide galloped up, saying that his master
had been
robbed of "everything" the night before,
and was
without the means of boiling water.
Orders were
given for the camps to close up, for no
servants to ride
in advance of or behind the caravan, and that
no Ilyats
should hang about the tents.

Although the Bakhtiari Lurs are unified
under one
chief, who is responsible to the Shah for the
security of
the country, and though there has been a great
improve-
ment lince Sir A. H. Layard's time, the
advance, I
think, is chiefly external. The instincts and
traditions
of the tribes remain predatory. Possibly they
may no
longer attack large caravans, but undoubtedly
they *rob,
when and where they can, and they have a
horrid habit
of stripping their victims, leaving them with
but one
under garment, if they do not kill them. They
have a
gesture, often used by Aziz Khan in his
descriptions of
raids, which means stripping a man to his
shirt. The
word used is skin, but they are not such
savages as this
implies. The gesture consists in putting a
finger into the

7 .th, slowly withdrawing it, and holding it
up with a
of infinite complacency. Aziz admits with

some
3 that with twenty, men he fell upon a rich
caravan

"•Shiraz, and robbed it of £600.

To-day's march has been mainly
through very

active scenery. We crossed the Ab-i-
 Mowaz, pro-
led over slopes covered with wheat and
 flowers, and
 ag a rocky path overhanging the
 exquisitely tinted
uft, forded the Ab-i-Nozi, at a place
 abounding in
tarisks bearing delicate, feathery pink
 blossoms, and
ended to upland lawns of great beauty, on
 which
3 oaks come down both in clumps
 and singly,